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# The Valley Star

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT MEDIA OUTLET OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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Trumping political norms **Opinion**

ASU candidates plead their case **News**

Boxing event was a knockout **Sports**

RED CARPET BOXING EVENT

# Float like a butterfly, punch like Ali

■ **K.O. High Boxing brings another exciting pugilistic spectacle to Valley College.**

ALVIN CUADRA / VALLEY STAR

**THUNDER IN THE VALLEY - Valley College hosted its second-ever boxing extravaganza Saturday evening in a 10-bout fight night, which included Nico Ali's (left) TKO finish.**

**BY KEVIN BUCKLES JR.**
EDITOR-AT-LARGE

A red corner, velvet red loafers, and a little red "Flav" all highlighted a red carpet event held Saturday night in Valley College's South Gym.

For the second time over the course of a year, K.O. High Boxing and promoter Marvin Columbus chose Valley as their venue for another boxing extravaganza. The night was hosted by actor Obba Babatundé ("How High," "Life,") and featured eight bouts, awards, giveaways, world and national champion boxers, celebrity appearances, and a crowd of nearly 1,000.

"Valley College is the best place to host shows like this, it's right in the center of the Valley," said Columbus. "This was one of our best shows, everybody had a good time."

The ten, three-round bouts—six of which were won by the boxer in the red corner of the ring—included: a female fight (both national champions), two antsy and aggressive eight-year-old boxers going head to head, a TKO delivered by Muhammad Ali's grandson, Nico Ali Walsh, and the main event featuring Valley's own, Emilio Rodriquez.

Rodriquez, 23, was the main event for the second straight year, winning both times; the super middleweight defeated Albert Leydan in a unanimous decision Saturday after three rounds of action, nearly a year to the day after defeating McArio Del Castillo in a TKO at Valley's first-ever boxing event in front of dozens of his family and friends.

"It builds me up, and gets me a little anxious," said Rodriquez of his large gathering of supporters at his fight. "But I'm grateful for all of the love and support, this was a great

**see *Boxing* p. 4**

# Peeping Tom on campus

■ **Two incidents of peeping have been reported in the last two months.**

**BY SOLOMON SMITH**
STAFF WRITER

Two reports of peeping Toms were made to Valley College's Sheriff's Station in the last two months; both incidents occurred in the women's locker room of the North Gym.

A student reported an unknown male searching the showers in the women's locker rooms two months ago. The suspect, a black or Hispanic man of average height and build wearing a black hoodie, was searching the shower stalls and came upon two female students undressing. When one of the students confronted him about what he was doing in the shower, he said he was looking for someone and that he was security. When questioned further, he ran away, according to the sheriff's report.

Another peeping incident occurred on March 22. The suspect was seen looking into the locker room

**see *Peeping* p. 2**

## UPCOMING VALLEY COLLEGE EVENTS

■ **ASU 2016-2017 Election Day is today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Campus Center (Monarch Hall)**

■ **President's Office Hours for students, sponsored by LAVC will be open for students tomorrow from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

■ **ASU Club Day: "Armenian Heritage Day" will be held Wednesday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Services Plaza.**

■ **A "Self-Discovery" workshop will be held Tuesday, April 26 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in LARC 212.**

# ASU candidates' debate kicks off election season for Monarchs

■ **The candidates for ASU offices reveal their platforms to the public.**

**BY SOLOMON SMITH**
STAFF WRITER

The Associated Student Union introduced the candidates running for several ASU positions in a question-and-answer forum held in the Campus Center's Fireside Room Wednesday.

Several positions have candidates running unopposed, while the most hotly-contested positions are that of president and minister of cultural affairs. Each of the candidates was given three minutes to answer the same three questions, as well as an opportunity to make an opening and closing statement. Saleem Moinuddin, current ASU commissioner of political affairs, moderated the event.

The field of candidates consisted of a wide variety of students with varied backgrounds and experiences all eager to participate in the political process on campus. Jackie Alas, running for political affairs commissioner, gave voice to the needs of disabled students on campus, while her opponent Sarah Wallace focused on tuition reduction and increasing the enrollment of foster youth. Several candidates mentioned the increase of foster youth enrollment, decreasing costs for students and the needs of mothers on campus.

Student turnout was low, with audience members chiefly being from the pool of candidates, from the ASU itself or visitors from other schools interested in the visiting school senators. Valley's online radio station KVCM was also present. The most contested seat is of ASU president. Four students are running for the position, each with very different ideas of what the issues on campus are and what direction to take the student body. They were also vastly different in their qualifications and experiences. Daniel Ray Natsumi-Rabaso, the current vice president, provided a long list of credentials—from participating in the political action committee to environmental programs on campus. He also noted a lack of trust between the student body, teachers and ASU.

"Many people do not trust ASU, including teachers and students," Natsumi-Rabaso said.

Zuma Sharpe, another long time participant in activities on campus, mentioned stress as one of the main issues on campus. Her suggestions for relieving stress on campus range

**see *Election* p. 2**

# Twitchell's "Freeway Lady" takes the last exit

■ **"Freeway Lady" returns to the public eye after 30 years away.**

BELEN CAMPIRANO / VALLEY STAR

**AL FRESCO - Artist Kent Twitchell, LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez and Valley College President Erika Endrijonas band together in the inaugurating of the "Freeway Lady" mural.**

**BY MELINDA HENRICKS**
STAFF WRITER

Valley College held a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday to honor artist Kent Twitchell and his redesigned mural of the "Freeway Lady."

The newly repainted version of the "Freeway Lady" breathes new life into one of the most legendary murals in Los Angeles. The original mural was painted in 1974, and was a comfort to passing drivers on the Hollywood 101 freeway downtown for decades.

Thursday's ceremony took place amidst sunny skies and a cool breeze. Many in attendance sported suits and black ties. There were 135 seats available with most of them filled. The evening was a perfect backdrop to an occasion taken very seriously by the many who worked diligently to bring the project to fruition.

The speakers told an impressive story regarding all of the time, preparation, and care that went into bringing the "Old Freeway Lady" home to rest at Valley College. Sitting to my right, was retired CSUN art professor, Joanne Julian. She went to art school with Twitchell and watched as he painted both murals 40 years apart.

Twitchell originally painted the mural on the Angeles Prince Hotel in Echo Park as an homage to his grandmother, Marie. His acrylic painting bore a likeness to character

**see *Freeway* p. 2**

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**www.thevalleystar.com**

# Not "politics as usual"

**■ The death of Justice Scalia raises the stakes of the 2016 presidential election for the Republican Party and Democratic Party.**

BY MELINDA HENRICKS
STAFF WRITER

If you thought that politics could get ugly, hold onto your hat; we are in for the ride of our lives, politically speaking. The recent death of Justice Scalia has Democrats and Republicans jumping through hoops, hoping to fill the vacated Supreme Court seat. President Barack Obama nominated Merrick Garland, a highly-qualified U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge for the District of Columbia, for the position. It has been more than two decades since the Supreme Court has been controlled by a democratic majority. Republicans have stated that they will stall the vote until a new, and hopefully Republican, president has been elected.

The March 28-April 18 RealClearPolitics average of polls shows that Obama's job-approval rating is evenly split 48 to 48 percent in his last year of office. The Affordable Care Act seems to be the president's biggest achievement and failure, with many believing that he did not go far enough with the implementation of the details regarding care, costs and service. Recent Gallup Poll history demonstrates that this is a much better rating than many former presidents have earned. Of the recent two-term presidents, Bill Clinton had a 60.6 percent approval rating and Ronald Reagan left office with 55.3 percent approval; on the low side, Richard Nixon and George W. Bush ended their tenure in office with a 34.4 and 36.5 percent approval rating, respectively.

We are experiencing many new phenomenons in terms of the candidates. People in the 18-35 age group are impressed with Bernie Sanders, believing that "Bernie is honest and transparent and will pay attention to their concerns," according to First Draft Political News. A free college education and government-paid health care are major concerns, and Bernie is responding to these needs by offering tuition-free public colleges and universities, reduced student-loan interest rates, universal pre-K, and affordable child care. In fact, these issues are among some of his most popular ideologies for success. Recently, his popularity is on the rise with an uphill battle being faced in states with the largest number of delegates.

According to First Draft Political News, "the LGBT community and black and Hispanic women are still swayed by Clinton's electability and her leadership skills." Additionally, Hillary Clinton has stood her ground and supported the issues of these communities. Clinton's biggest downfall is that she has repeatedly shown her ties to big business and transparency has obviously fallen by the wayside. The episode of wiping her personal e-mail clean has left many questioning her honesty and threats of indictment loom large.

Given all this, many are surprised that Clinton and Sanders are now neck and neck overall. Clinton, however, is ahead after significant wins and a show of support from the loyal, southern, African-American community. She leads Sanders 47 to 46 percent in a national USA Today poll heading into Tuesday's New York primary. So far, Clinton has won 1289 delegates and Sanders has won 1045. In addition, Clinton leads Sanders in pledged superdelegates 469-31.

On the Republican side, we have Donald Trump, whom at first was the little engine that could. Trump's popularity is causing a huge division in the Republican Party, with some party leaders executing plans to derail him. "The more he defies his party, the more voters cheer him on," Stephen B. Morton of The New York Times said. The Times added that anti-Trump republicans supporting efforts to elect Ted Cruz, who currently lags behind Trump, are now stepping up their game with a plan B. Sen. Cruz is now garnering support and is picking up steam, but Trump leads the delegate count with 756. Cruz's 559 puts him in second, and Kasich is a distant third with 144.

According to LA Times writer Joseph Tanfani, "Conservative or dark money groups are now going after the GOP hopefuls to ensure a Republican win." At some point, many expect that Republicans will run an Independent Party candidate if all else fails to stop the locomotion of Donald Trump. Although all candidates pledged to support the Republican nominee, Trump now states that "his supporters will resist if someone else were nominated." According to New York Times writers Alexander Burns and Jonathan Martin, "this statement has many concerned as it appears to mean that Mr. Trump encourages or condones violence." Personal attacks and the arrest of Trump's campaign manager have left many with doubts about his ability to carry the Republican nomination to fruition. Winning the election may now be out of the question for him as his popularity fades and support for Cruz builds.

Anti-Trump republicans have until late May to use the Libertarian Party as a means of introducing new candidates to the race. Moreover, anti-Trump supporters will use the last six weeks between the primaries and the mid-July convention to woo individual delegates. However, Trump is using the force directed against him as a strategic defense, asking the public: How is the current state of affairs in this country working for you and your family? This has given pause for reflection to many.

Whatever happens now is anyone's guess. It appears that all previously set rules are now flying out the window on both sides. The death of Justice Scalia changed the stakes tremendously. This has created a warpath for Republicans like we have never experienced. All of the candidates should chalk their cues as the coveted Supreme Court seat remains the "mystery guest" and has tremendous impact in the upcoming election. If there was ever a time to get involved and make your voice heard, this presidential election will be that time.

BELEN CAMPIRANO / VALLEY STAR

**VYING FOR PREZ - ASU Vice President Daniel Ray Natsumi-Rabaso makes his case for the presidency in last week's candidates' debate in the Fireside Room in the Campus Center.**

## 'Election'

*continued from page 1*

from puppy and massage therapy to massage therapy on campus. She also wants to make it easier for students with children and varying backgrounds to enter into classes.

"It's never too late to start school," Sharpe said. "It's never too late to start something new."

Outreach to all groups on campus, as well as grass roots organization, was the focus for Alex Bergmans' position, while Hovanes Tunoyan, a member of TAP, the Honors Society, and more than six clubs on campus, wanted students to feel at home at Valley.

The forum-style meeting also had visiting senators who were running for the position of student trustee. One candidate, Bryant Woodert from Los Angeles City College, pushed the goal of getting financial aid into the hands of students and reducing incidental fees charged to students.

## 'Peeping'

*continued from page 1*

near the women's showers from the outside at around 4:30 p.m. A female student saw the individual looking in at her while she was changing. When the suspect realized he had been spotted, he immediately fled the scene. The suspect was described as a black or Filipino male of average height and build with a mustache.

The sheriff's department issued a crime alert for peeping and prowling, warning about the two incidents and asked students to report any information they may have to campus security. Notices with some information about the incidents have been posted near the North Gym and swimming pool area. Deputy Sheriff Javante Brown recommends that students report any suspicious behavior. Several staff members were questioned about the two incidents, including the director of athletic affairs, but were not aware of them.

Brown, who wrote the posted notices and took the incident reports, indicated that the two events are not necessarily related.

"I think they are different incidents," Brown said, "as the method of operation was different in each one and the descriptions were general and superficially similar."

According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders voyeurism is, "the act of looking (peeping) for the purpose of achieving sexual excitement," usually on unsuspecting persons. Voyeurs are often not looking for confrontation and are best dealt with by letting the assailant know they have been seen—being aware of the surrounding area and calling for help if needed are the best ways to deal with this situation, according to Brown.

"Typically once a predator is challenged, unless he is just determined, he's going to run off," he said.

## 'Freeway'

*continued from page 1*

actress Lillian Bronson. Unfortunately, a billboard company white-washed her in 1986.

After winning a legal settlement, and being repainted, she was then destroyed by graffiti. Since then, Twitchell, now 73, has been searching for a proper home and final resting place for this iconic mural. The mural itself is 30-by-22 feet, and is painted on the back side of the Student Services Complex, facing north on Fulton Avenue.

Dr. Erika Endrijonas, Valley College president, hosted the ceremony. A historian herself, she said, "I couldn't be more thrilled than to have this mural at Valley College."

Endrijonas, introduced Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, LACCD Chancellor, who spoke to the importance of the arts, history, and culture of Los Angeles. Additionally, he was involved in the process of obtaining the legendary mural.

Throughout the ceremony, it became obvious that bringing this iconic mural home to Valley was no easy feat, with many community leaders involved in the process. Erica Martel, ASU president, spoke and shared that "the mural reflects the face of a warm, loving grandmother watching over the students and the community."

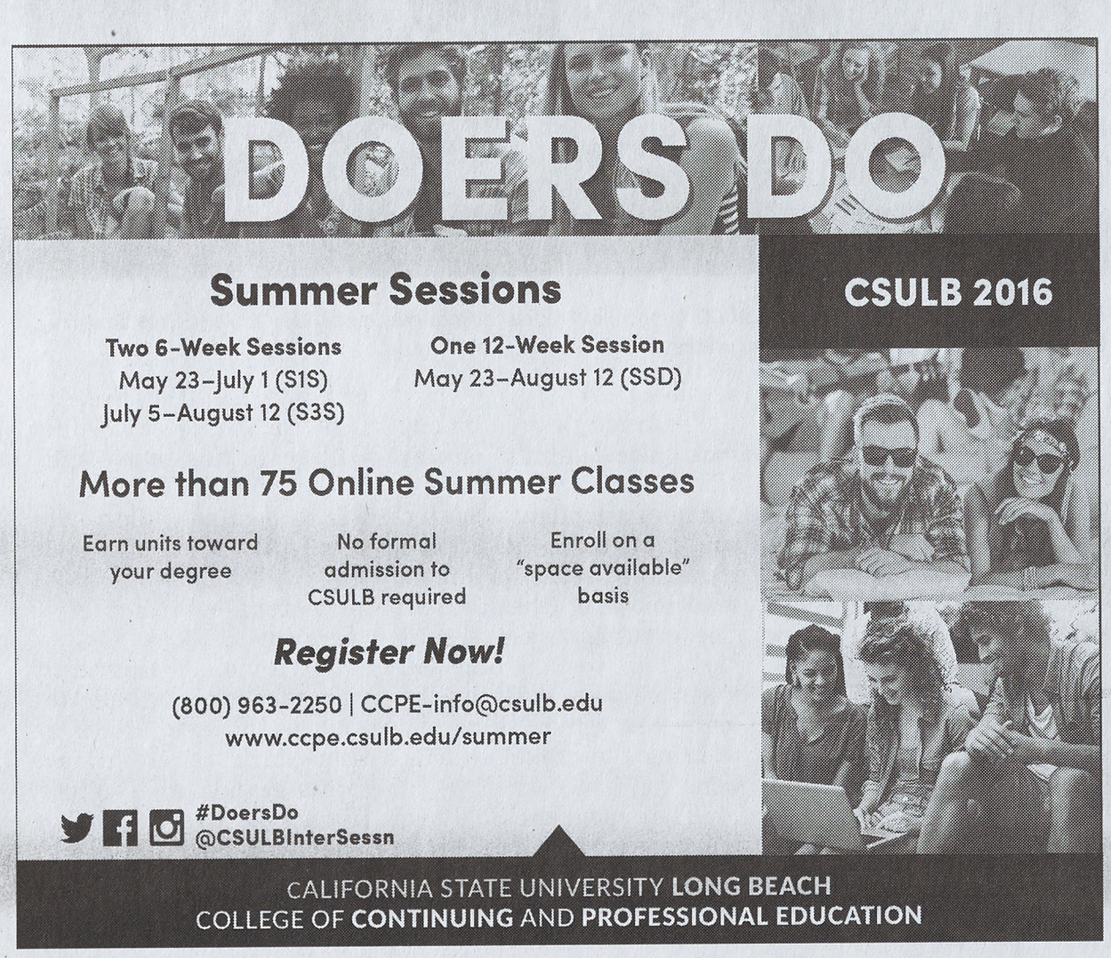
Twitchell told the LA Daily News, "I think the Valley is a great place for her to retire." In his speech on Thursday he stated, "I realize now that the mural was always meant to be retired at Valley College." Twitchell is a renowned artist and has created some of the most noteworthy art and murals throughout Los Angeles.

In fact, it was voter-approved bond monies that made it possible for this updated mural of the original Old Freeway Lady, boasting a magical-looking afghan, against a night background, with the moon shining through. Additionally, students and community residents helped paint portions of the mural.

There were refreshments and a documentary film produced by Valley College documentarian Lynly Ehrlich, who painstakingly condensed 95 hours of footage into a seven-minute film.

Endrijonas gave special thanks to City Councilman Paul Krekorian for his participation throughout the process. Waxie Sanitation Supply was thanked for donating the landscape for the mural garden, and additional thanks to the LA Fellows Program at Valley and the LAVC Foundation were given. Many of these individuals were in attendance, as well as former Valley College President Sue Carleo.

Endrijonas concluded the ceremony stating the "The Old Freeway Lady" is now home and will provide comfort and culture to the community. She added that for herself, having the iconic mural here "is a dream come true."

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# SPORTS

## 'Boxing'

*continued from page 1*

environment."

The 23-year-old's bout versus Leydan was much more competitive this go round than last year's. The two frequently exchanged blows towards the ends of the rounds, with Rodriquez edging out Leydan in precision and accuracy. Rodriquez eventually began landing his combos more consistently, as his strong right hooks paid dividends in his 14th win of his amateur career to only two losses.

"It was a great fight," Rodriquez said. "For me, it's all mental, and I work so hard before the fight so I don't have to think too much during it. Work hard to fight easy."

As Columbus did last year, he introduced celebrities in attendance in between bouts last year; first up was rapper and reality star Flavor Flav, donning an all-red hat, bright red sneakers, and of course, wearing a signature red clock around his neck.

Following Flavor Flav was a good friend of Derrick Watkins, better known as Fonzworth Bentley. Bentley, donning his usual dapper attire, including red velvet loafers, briefly addressed the crowd, encouraging those to continue pursuing their dreams, as well as mentioning projects he's recently worked on: writing credits on Kanye West's new album, "The Life of Pablo," and a role in "Think Like A Man Too."

Other celebs in attendance were: Percussionists Sheila E., and brother Peter Michael Escovedo (also biological father of Nicole Richie), 2016 USA Olympic Boxing alternate Rahim Gonzales, a number of well-known boxing trainers, and several members of the Ali family.

The Ali's certainly weren't disappointed as the 15-year-old, already built like a future heavyweight, dominated his fight versus Joaquin Sulleven.

The first round of the match saw Sulleven as the aggressor, but as the second round began, Ali's lefthand reach and jab became more and more devastating. The jab set up a combo that sent Ali's right undercut onto Sulleven's face that knocked him into a Tim Tebow-like praying position, marking the beginning of the end. Shortly after regaining his balance, Sulleven was fooled again by Ali's left jab, as he was knocked down for good with a strong right hook to the jaw.

The final knockdown was so vigorous, Flavor Flav nearly jumped into the ring himself out of excitement.

In a special done by Bleacher Report Studios last spring on Nico and his older brother Biaggio, their mother Rashida Ali Walsh spoke on Nico and his similarities to her father, Muhammad.

"Nico is built like my father, he is a big kid... he is a heavyweight for sure," Walsh told Bleacher Report. "He has a lot of my daddy in him in that he's just not going to let anyone knock him down."

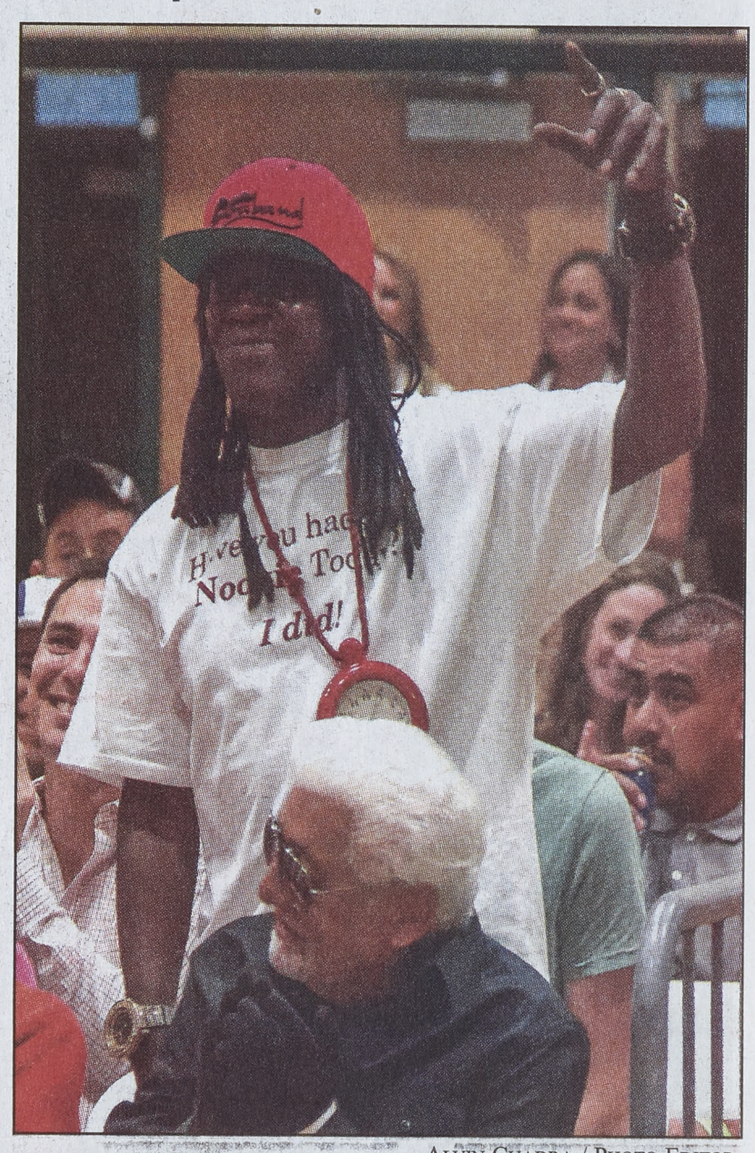
Luckily for Nico, a TKO gene was passed down to him from his grandfather as well.

Following the fight, Columbus, a former professional dancer who toured with Midnight Starr, the SOS, the Gap Bands and others in the '80's, reinforced that he would love to bring a boxing event to Valley on a biannual basis now.

"Oh yeah, we'll definitely be back in September," said Columbus. "I love Valley College man. I wish that more Valley College students would come out to support our events at their school next time, but I'm excited man."

ALVIN CUADRA / PHOTO EDITOR

**POW! RIGHT IN THE KISSER!** - Valley's Emilio Rodriquez (right) picks up his 14th win Saturday night vs. Albert Leydan in the South Gym.



ALVIN CUADRA / PHOTO EDITOR

**TIMELY APPEARANCE** - Flavor Flav cheers on the young boxers.